

EXPECT A SIEGE

VLADIVOSTOK CANNOT HOPE FOR CONTINUED QUIET.

PREDICTS EARLY ATTACK

TONG HAKS OF KOREA BOTHERING THE JAPANESE.

Brash with Russians Also Occurs in Outposts Near Anju—Editor Issued Opening Yongampho to Foreigners.

ST. PETERSBURG.—As no further dispatches, official or otherwise, have arrived from Port Arthur, the government has concluded that the bombardment by the Japanese fleet on March 22 failed to cause any damage worthy to be reported to the czar. In consequence, satisfaction at the continued fruitlessness of Japanese assaults on Port Arthur prevails in high circles.

VLADIVOSTOK.—While the situation at Vladivostok remains quiet, it is not expected that Vladivostok will continue to be much longer free from the vigorous operations of the Japanese. In anticipation of the appearance of the enemy and of a possible siege, a woman's circle has been formed. It sits six hours daily at the ministry of marine, preparing bandages of linen for wounded soldiers and sailors. Most of the women in Vladivostok belong to this circle, including the representatives of the aristocracy who have determined to share the discomforts of the operations with their husbands.

In Nikolsk, forty miles north of Vladivostok on the railroad, a committee has been formed under the auspices of the vice governor to collect donations towards the increase of the fleet.

SEOUL.—The Tong Haks are giving trouble in the northeastern part of Korea and are making overtures to the Russians. A detachment of Japanese from Gensan engaged a body of Tong Haks near Samung with the result that twenty were killed or wounded and thirty-five were captured.

A brush between Japanese and Russians has occurred at the outposts north of Anju. One Japanese was killed. An imperial edict has been issued opening Yongampho to foreign trade.

United States Minister Allen today gave a luncheon to Marquis Ito, which was attended by several foreign diplomats.

Hill and Morgan Buy the U. P.

NEW YORK.—Following a day of great excitement in the stock market and numerous conferences among the leading financial interests, the new plan of Northern Securities company was made public this evening. In substance it provides for a stock dividend of 99 per cent, this is to be effected by a reduction of that amount in the capital stock of the Securities company.

For every share of Northern Securities surrendered the company will deliver \$39.27 of stock of the Northern Pacific Railway company and \$30.17 of the Great Northern Railway company. The shares of the Northern Pacific company, which were taken over by Northern Securities at 115, and those of Great Northern at 180, will be distributed on this basis.

The other assets of the securities company, consisting chiefly of its Chicago, Burlington & Quincy holdings and Northern Pacific coal lands, will remain in the treasury of the company until some plan for their distribution has been evolved.

Hold Company Responsible.

DEBUQUE, Ia.—A coroner's jury, inquiring into the deaths of Thomas, Rhyno, G. Field and Cavanaugh, who were killed in a collision of two sections of a stock train at Dyerville on February 25, today returned a verdict holding the Chicago Great Western railroad and Conductor Mahony responsible, and charging both with gross negligence. The evidence showed that there were no signals placed, and that the speed of the second section was such as to make a collision inevitable.

So-Called President Killed.

Manila.—Captain DeWitt, with a detachment of constabulary and Lieutenant Pitney, with a detachment of scouts have just encountered Macario Sakay, the so-called president of the Filipino republic. Sakay with fifteen of his followers were killed and the remainder of the band was captured. There were no casualties on the part of the Americans.

PHELPS COUNTY HARD HIT

CHANGE OF WIND ON THURSDAY STARTS NEW BLAZE.

Damage as Result of Two Days' Fire Difficult to Estimate—But One Man Known to Have Lost Life.

HOLDREGE, Neb.—It is still hard to learn definitely who the losers are in the raging fire. Not at many dwelling houses were burned as the report would indicate. Several of the homes that were reported destroyed were saved by hard fighting and letting all the outbuildings go. A great number of barns and other outbuildings are destroyed, as well as much feed and stock.

The wind got around in the north-west and the fire was started toward Loomis and caused much apprehension as it ran three or four miles and got within one mile of Loomis. The men all went out to fight fire and the women and children were hurried into the region that had been swept by the fire the day before.

So much excitement and apprehension existed that it is hard to get the details and names of losers. The property loss is exceedingly great, although probably less than was at first thought. No lives were lost except that of Mr. Olson.

There were many narrow escapes from burning to death, among them Mrs. Andrew Lohn and her daughter, who made their way to an open plowed field, and two or three sick persons who were removed from their homes with difficulty.

August Olson, the man killed, lost his life while trying to release his stock from an enclosure. When found his body was burned to a crisp.

The fire swept everything in its path and was carried over the dry stubble and meadows at a terrific rate by the southwest gale. Three fires are said to have started in different places supposedly by sparks from engines.

BASSETT, Neb.—A disastrous prairie fire has been raging in Rock county since early morning. The fire originated in Loup county and, driven by a high wind, burned a strip from five to ten miles wide from the south line of the county to the railroad near Newport, a distance of forty miles. Thousands of tons of hay, many residences, outbuildings and stock have been destroyed. The fire is still burning and an army of men and teams are fighting it.

Again Under Martial Law.

DENVER, Colo.—After ten days of civil control, San Miguel is again under martial law. According to news from Telluride, the principal town of the San Juan mining region, a proclamation issued by Governor Peabody was read there, declaring San Miguel country to be in a state of insurrection and rebellion and ordering Captain Wells of the local militia to assume control of affairs.

In the governor's proclamation it is said that certain armed bands within and without San Miguel county are preparing to join forces to resist law and destroy property. Another reason given for placing the militia in control is that crimes have been committed and threats have been made by alleged disorderly persons.

Sunk In Harbor.

LONDON.—The Daily Telegraph publishes a dispatch from its Tokyo correspondent, which says:

"On the night of March 22 the Japanese fleet renewed the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur. Sixteen warships escorted seven merchant steamers to the mouth of the harbor and under cover of the bombardment the steamers ran in and were sunk in desired positions. Three hundred Japanese officers and blue jackets volunteered for this duty. An official report is expected this afternoon."

Finds Records Mutilated.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—In division No. 2 of the supreme court today Assistant Attorney General Jeffries presented affidavits of Attorney General E. C. Crow, Miss Lydia Lee, the attorney general's stenographer, and Judge C. D. Crum, of Booneville, in support of the attorney general's motion filed with the supreme court some time ago, asking that the submission of the case of the state versus Howard Sharp of Monroe county, be set aside because of mutilation of the records in the case. Sharp was convicted of murder in the second degree.

TORN UP BY HEAVY WIND

TORNADO AND HAILSTORM HIT TOWNS IN MISSOURI.

Hail a Foot Deep Within Five Minutes of the Visitation—Wires Down and Full Extent Not Yet Known.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—A special to the Times from Higginsville, Mo., says fifty buildings are partly wrecked and one man is mortally wounded and several others hurt, the town is in darkness and the streets strewn with debris as the result of a tornado and hailstorm which struck this place at 4:45 o'clock this afternoon. The hail on the streets was a foot deep within five minutes after the storm came. Dozens of trees in the town and several horses were killed on the street.

The storm came without warning. The wind and hail came first and was followed by a terrific downpour of rain, which flooded nearly every cellar in town. The storm came from the west, traveling eastward. It kept within a narrow path, at least, the tornado portion only about two blocks of the business portion of the place being damaged.

It is estimated that 2,000 windows were broken by the force of the storm. More than fifty houses have been unroofed. Owing to the fact that the electric light wires are all down and the electric plant damaged the town will be in darkness all tonight and probably tomorrow night. Little progress can be made in the darkness and the damage may be greater than first supposed.

The most careful estimate of the financial loss is \$40,000.

Shell The City.

LONDON.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from St. Petersburg says:

"Japanese torpedo boats appeared off Port Arthur at midnight of the night of March 21-22, and the shore batteries and guardships shelled them for twenty minutes. The Japanese retreated but reappeared four hours later when they met with the same reception when they retired again."

"At 6 a. m. a Japanese squadron of two divisions, composed of four and eleven ships, and accompanied by eight torpedo boats appeared and the Russian squadron sailed out from the outer roadstead to meet them."

"No further details regarding the action are obtainable."

"At 9 a. m. the Japanese battleships, having fired several shots at Liaotshin and sheltered behind the promontory commenced a bombardment of Port Arthur."

No One Has Sinned.

WASHINGTON.—The special senate committee to investigate charges against Senator Charles H. Dietrich met at 2 o'clock today and heard briefly the testimony of an unwilling witness, U. S. Rohrer, of Hastings, who swore that William Dutton had never said in his presence that Assistant Postmaster Haman could be appointed deputy postmaster if he and his friends had five hundred dollars to put up. Witness, however, told of a certain conversation he had with Dutton, wherein the latter called witness aside and asked him certain questions which witness had never divulged for the reason that it was understood the conversation would be considered strictly confidential. Witness therefore asked Senator Hoar if he would be required to divulge the conversation. After deliberating on the point the committee decided that the witness would not, and he was thereupon discharged.

There is no doubt that the finding will be favorable to Senator Dietrich, and it is equally true that the finding will not involve Attorney Summers, as Washington newspapers have predicted, and as Senator Dietrich's friends predict. The latter, however, have not hesitated to tell the president that Summers, in his prosecution of Dietrich, was actuated by motives of personal revenge and their representations may have had some effect at the white house, yet it is not fair to say that the president's determination to displace Summers had anything to do with the Dietrich case.

STORM AREA WIDE

ENTIRE UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SUFFERS FROM EFFECTS.

CHICAGO ALSO AFFECTED

ST. LOUIS AND TERRITORY ADJACENT AMONG SUFFERERS.

Tracks Washed Away and Telegraph and Telephone Lines Prostrated in Every Direction.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—The wind and rain storm that swept over here caused a large amount of property damage, injured many persons and seriously crippled the local and interurban street car traffic, but no fatalities have been reported.

An old land mark, known as the Custom mills, occupied as a boarding house by a dozen miners, was blown down. The occupants escaped with bruises.

The home of Philip Riplinger was overturned and Riplinger and his six children were rescued from the debris. All were bruised.

At the aluminum works of the Pittsburg Reduction company, one building, containing machinery, was demolished and the electric light plant was badly damaged.

The entire west wall and part of the roof of the suburban railway station were demolished. Plank sidewalks were blown away, telegraph and telephone poles broken off, and all over the city homes were damaged.

CHICAGO.—Further details of the damage caused by the storm in the suburbs of Chicago were obtained. At Washington Heights several persons were injured and houses were blown down or unroofed. In Morgan Park and Fernwood the storm reached the proportions of a tornado. Five houses were unroofed, another blown from its foundation and miles of telephone and telegraph poles were blown down. Twisted telegraph wires blocked the Rock Island and Pan Handle railway tracks. Sidewalks were wrenched from their place and thousands of yards of fences scattered through the street.

Seven Miles of Flames.

NORFOLK, Neb.—A special to the News says that the prairie fire in Holt county still raged at midnight. It probably was checked going south at Cedar creek. Amelia was saved by a fire line three miles from town. The first started in Wheeler county from the spark in the feed pen of a ranch and ran twenty miles north in a path seven miles wide over the Dry creek valley. It came with a mile of Chambers. Ranchman Madneson lost all but his house and Mr. Dickson lost all outbuildings. Thousands of tons of hay were destroyed. Details are meager and an estimate of the loss is impossible, but it will reach many thousands of dollars.

CHAMBERS, Neb.—The little town of Amelia, which was threatened by prairie fire, was saved. The fire came to within three miles of the town, but the wind shifted and carried the flames another way. The fire burned to within three quarters of a mile of Chambers, sweeping a strip of seven miles wide.

RED CLOUD, Neb.—The Miner ranch, a little distance southwest of town, was nearly devastated by a disastrous fire Wednesday evening which started from a spark from an engine. Several buildings were consumed including one large barn in which was a number of head of stock which were saved by the workmen. A large grove was also partially destroyed. The buildings on the ranch were insured.

RIVERTON, Neb.—In a prairie fire Wednesday August Hundt lost all his buildings on his farm six miles north of here, except his house. All his grain, machinery, etc., was destroyed, also fourteen head of calves perished. The wind, which blew a gale, rendered all efforts to subdue the flames futile.

GIBBON, Neb.—Prairie fires from the northwest came over the hills fanned by a terrific wind accompanied by dust that filled the air and made it impossible to see shortly after noon today. Beebe Brothers' ranch was directly in line of the fire and they lost their barn, hog sheds, granary, hen house, farming tools.

NEBRASKA NOTES

The Alblon National bank will erect a new building for its business.

A Sunday School Institute will be held at Cook, Johnson county, on Thursday, March 31.

David Whistler, formerly of Tecumseh, is dead of neuralgia of the heart at Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Margaret Anderson died at Seward after a brief illness. She was 71 years of age and leaves five children.

Temperance meetings, which have been in progress at Tecumseh were poorly attended.

The Columbus Journal has been sold to F. H. Abbot of Fremont and Stuart Kennedy of St. Edwards.

Miss Anna Craig of Beatrice has been promoted to chief state operator of the Nebraska Telephone company.

The Farmers' Grain and Live Stock association has bought Chalmers Brothers' elevator at Saronville. The price was \$2,100.

C. L. Foraker, a young man who has been working for some time at Beatrice has been left \$5,000 by his father and has gone home.

Deputy Postmaster Peter Peterson of Holdrege died suddenly of apoplexy. He was one of the pioneers of the state.

Sixty men who were working on the asylum building at Norfolk struck for higher pay. They were getting 75 cents a thousand for cleaning brick.

The farmers around Plattsmouth are talking of the new "million dollar rain" which fell in the past few days.

Z. O. Dean of Humboldt has gone to San Francisco, where he will sail for the Philippines to spend three years teaching the native Filipinos.

There may be a shifting of assessors at Humboldt in order that each precinct may be assessed by an unprejudiced man under the new revenue law.

Two Omaha boys who ran away from home have been arrested at Nebraska City and will be sent back home. They are Chris Rubold and William Sadenburg.

At Plattsmouth a motion for a new trial in the case of Charles Holmes convicted of perjury, was overruled. He was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

Guy Upton Fink died at his home at Marquette of cancer of the tongue. He was formerly employed in the butter department of Bennett's store at Omaha.

The state fish car started out to distribute fish in the streams of Holt, Brown, Cherry, Sheridan and Dawes counties. The car contains 200,000 rainbow and lake trout fry.

The Rev. Brockett of Council Bluffs has been called to the pastorate of the Cottage Grove church near Humboldt to succeed the Rev. B. A. Shively, who has removed to Shelton.

The wheat crop has been greatly benefited by the rain which fell Sunday throughout the state. The soil in the southwestern part of the state is in good condition for spring planting.

Mrs. Ferdinand Zessin, a pioneer resident of Madison, has disappeared and a trace of her can be found. Friends and relatives are greatly alarmed and have instituted a vigorous search.

Sheriff Clark of Alblon has returned from Keya Paha county with John Wilson, said to be wanted for horse stealing. A mare belonging to F. M. Tully of Cedar Rapids was found in his possession.

Mrs. Fred Marshall, wife of County Superintendent Marshall of Knox county, died suddenly at Plainview while visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins. She was a bride of but three weeks. Her death was caused by appendicitis.

The Rev. W. B. Maze for several years pastor of the Evangelical church at Humboldt, has resigned and will make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he will pursue his studies. The Rev. Dillon of Fullerton will take his place at Humboldt.

D. E. Thompson United States minister to Brazil, left to resume his duties in the South American country. He will sail from New York April 15. Mr. Thompson has appointed W. D. Pittman, formerly with the Western Union company at Lincoln, secretary to the American legation.